

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 OES-06 CEQ-01 AGRE-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

UNCLAS TOKYO 5104

DEPT PASS EPA/OIA,K. MACONAUGHEY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, JA
SUBJ: STATUS OF PESTICIDES IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 47099

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF THE QTE ARGICULTURAL CHEMICALS REGULATION OF LAW UNQTE WHICH GOVERNS THE MANUFACTURE, SALE OR USE OF ANY PESTICIDE IN JAPAN. COPY BEING POUCHED TO MACONAUGHEY. EMBASSY IS ALSO POUCHING COPY OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT TITLED CONTROL OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD IN JAPAN. REPORT GIVES PERMISSIBLE LEVELS OF PESTICIDES IN VARIOUS KINDS OF FOODS AND DESCRIBES METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF THOSE LEVELS.

2. IN GENERAL THE LAW STATES THAT ANYONE WISHING TO MANUFACTURE, SELL OR USE A CHEMICAL IN AGRICULTURAL APPLICATIONS MUST OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY. FOR APPROVAL THE CHEMICAL MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE MINISTRY AND APPROVED FOR SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS.

3. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REP INFORMED EMBASSY THAT NONE OF THE CHEMICALS LISTED PARA 2 REFTEL ARE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AND THUS NONE OF THEM ARE OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED FOR USE. REP COULD NOT IDENTIFY QTE 1080 UNQTE AND SO COULD NOT COMMENT ON THAT CHEMICAL.
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4. MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THAT LACK OF REGISTRATION DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT CHEMICALS CAN BE PRODUCED AND EXPORTED FROM JAPAN. IN FACT, ARTICLE 16-3 OF LAW STATES THAT QTE THIS LAW SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE CASE WHERE AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL IS MANUFACTURED, PROCESSED OR SOLD TO EXPORT. UNQTE. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC INQUIRY INTO EXPORT STATUS OF CHEMICALS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL MINISTRY

REP SAID THAT NONE OF THEM ARE EXPORTED TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY WAS IN CHARGE OF EXPORT CONTROLS AND ONLY MITI COULD GIVE DEFINITIVE ANSWER RE EXPORT OF THESE CHEMICALS. MITI OFF TOLD EMBASSY REP THAT NO EXPORT LICENSES ARE GIVEN WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE RECEIVING STATE INDICATING THAT PESTICIDE CAN BE LEGALLY IMPORTED.

5. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF PESTICIDES BANNED FROM USE IN JAPAN: DDT, TEPP, METHYL PARATHION, PARATHION, BHC, HEPTACHLOR, 2-4-5-T, AND ORGANIC MERCURY COMPOUNDS (EXCEPT THOSE FOR SEED STERILIZATION).

6. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED HANDBOOK OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS IN JAPAN, PUBLISHED BY JAPAN PLANT QUARANTINE ASSOC., WHICH INDICATES THAT NONE OF THE PRODUCTS SPECIFIED IN REFTEL HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED, IMPORTED, EXPORTED, OR USED IN JAPAN SINCE 1975. UNFORTUNATELY HANDBOOK IS IN JAPANESE AND IS 510 PAGES. IF EPA WOULD LIKE COPY OF HANDBOOK EMBASSY WILL FORWARD ONE. COST IS APPROXIMATELY TEN DOLLARS.

7. SOME CONFUSION STILL EXISTS OVER THE STATUS OF SOME PESTICIDES MENTIONED REFTEL. WHILE MIN. OF AGRICULTURE SAYS THEY ARE NOT IN USE, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE HAS SET PERMISSIBLE RESIDUE LEVELS ON "BANNED" PRODUCTS, E.G. 0.2 PPM OF DDT IS ALLOWED IN APPLES. THIS WOULD INDICATE DDT IS STILL FOUND IN JAPAN EVEN THOUGH IT IS ON THE "BANNED" LIST. MITI EXPORT FIGURES DON'T LIST EXPORTS OF PESTICIDES BY CHEMICAL OR PRODUCT NAME AND ARE THUS USELESS IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT "BANNED" CHEMICALS OR CHEMICALS LISTED REFTEL ARE BEING MANUFACTURED AND EXPORTED. MITI OFFICIAL STATED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT EXPORT FIGURES ON PESTICIDES BROKEN DOWN BY PRODUCT WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

8. WE REALIZE THAT ABOVE INFO IS NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE TO DEPT'S AND EPA'S NEEDS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLY GREATER EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN WHAT MAY PROVE TO BE ONLY INCREMENTAL INCREASE IN UNDERSTANDING. BEFORE EXPENDING THIS EFFORT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE AS TO ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INFO, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATURE AND DEPTH OF THAT ALREADY FURNISHED. SHOESMITH

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